

□ **Washington, DC** – U.S. Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) voted Wednesday to support troops and their families by providing the resources they need while they serve our nation. The Defense Appropriations Act invests in military health and readiness while also supporting families back home

“As our military continues to fight abroad for our freedoms back home, we owe it to our brave service members to equip them with the best preparation and resources in the field and the best care when they return,” said Congressman Rodriguez. “Furthermore, this bill has provisions that will help our families get through these difficult economic times.”

The Defense Appropriations Act, which passed the House by an overwhelming majority, invests in our military by:

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including a 3.4 % pay raise for service members

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extending stop-loss payments for service members on extended tours of duty

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boosting funding for child care, spousal job training and expanded counseling services

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increasing funding for training and readiness

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extending unemployment insurance and COBRA for those hit hardest by the recession

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putting the brakes on outsourcing by placing Defense personnel – not contractors – in charge of critical department functions

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budgeting for overseas deployment and other military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan

“Balancing the needs of our military with our other priorities can sometimes be a challenge, but this bill does an admirable job of that by investing wisely and cutting out waste,” said Congressman Rodriguez. “I am proud to be a supporter of this bill and want to once again thank our brave military for their selfless dedication to our country.”

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